

REMARKS

Claims 2-10 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 7 and 8 are amended. Support for the amendments can be found, for example, in Figs. 2-4. No new matter is added. Reconsideration based on the amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. June 24, 2009 Personal Interview

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representatives by Examiner McClelland at the interview held June 24, 2009, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below, which constitute Applicant's separate record of the substance of the personal interview.

II. The Claims Satisfy the Requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

The Office Action rejects claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph for allegedly being indefinite. Specifically, the Office Action asserts that claim 8 is indefinite because it is unclear how claim 8 further limits claim 7, from which claim 8 depends (see Final Rejection, pages 2 and 3).

By this Amendment, claim 8 is amended responsive to the Office Action.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

III. The Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 4-8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP 05-220865 to Adachi et al. (hereinafter "Adachi") in view of WO 02/102579 to Suda; rejects claims 2 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Adachi in view of Suda, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,624,780 to Nishimori et al. (hereinafter "Nishimori"); rejects claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Adachi in view of Suda, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,863,106 to Currie et al. (hereinafter "Currie"); and rejects claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Adachi

in view of Suda and Currie, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,888,720 to Habert. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

The applied references, either alone or in combination, do not teach and would not have rendered obvious "a transfer drum having a circumferential direction and a width direction, the width direction being substantially perpendicular to the circumferential direction, and...the low adhesion sections and the high adhesion sections being alternately arranged in the width direction of the transfer drum," as recited in amended independent claim 7.

The Office Action asserts that Adachi (at paragraphs [0007] and [0010], and in Figs. 3 and 4) teaches features that allegedly correspond to the claimed application regions and the claimed plurality of high adhesion sections and low adhesion sections (see Final Rejection, page 4). Applicant disagrees with these assertions for the following reasons.

As discussed during the personal interview, Adachi merely teaches a plurality of first arc-shaped segments 21 (allegedly corresponding to the claimed high adhesion sections) and a plurality of second arc-shaped segments 25 (allegedly corresponding to the claimed low adhesion sections) that are alternately arranged in a circumferential direction of the molding drum 11 (see Adachi, Fig. 2). However, Adachi is silent with regard to the arrangement of high adhesion sections and low adhesion sections being alternately arranged in a width direction of the drum 11. Consequently, Adachi does not teach and would not have rendered obvious "a transfer drum having a circumferential direction and a width direction, the width direction being substantially perpendicular to the circumferential direction, and...the low adhesion sections and the high adhesion sections being alternately arranged in the width direction of the transfer drum," as recited in amended independent claim 7.

The other applied references, in any combination, do not remedy the deficiencies of Adachi.

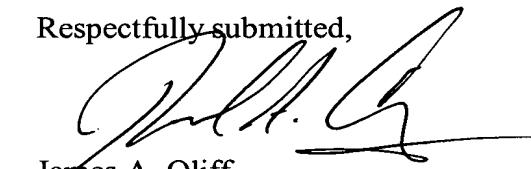
For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 7 is patentable over the applied references. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claim 7. Moreover, claims 2-6 and 8-10 depend from claim 7. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections of claims 2-6 and 8-10, at least based on their respective dependence on claim 7, as well as for the additional features each of these claims recites.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Request for Continued Examination

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